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ABSTRACT

This book is intended to teach students who study abroad how to record and study their cross-cultural observations, so that culture shock may move beyond the initial orientation program to become an integrated part of the study abroad curriculum. Its thesis is that writing is a tool for learning and self-discovery, that writing about everyday cultural experiences will help in acquiring the skills to navigate in a new country. Among the topics discussed are cultural shock and the intercultural experience, writing as a mode to learning culture, the analytical notebook as an antidote to culture shock and as a tool for research, and cultural change and personal discovery. The central chapter clarifies the meaning and usage of 'analytical notebook', differentiating it from, on the one hand, the highly personal, very private record of a diary, and on the other, the journal which tends to include references that go beyond the personal. The analytical notebook is compared to ethnographic research in its way of recording everyday life and seeking to interpret it. Extensive examples and fairly detailed directions are provided. (Contains 45 references.) (BF)

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